

Things your can do to Make a Difference

By making simple changes in our everyday lives, we can make significant stride to maintain the planet we all share.

- ✿ **Save the Environment...** **Keep your home healthy** by reducing your use of unnecessary toxic chemicals, and disposing of your hazardous products properly!
- ✿ **Shop Smart**, avoid over packaged goods; buy in bulk when possible to reduce packaging.
- ✿ **Shop Wisely** to save resources. Ask yourself, "Can the container be easily recycled or reused?"
- ✿ **Use cloth grocery bags** - they're sturdy and reusable. If every household in America did, we could save as many as 60,000 trees.
- ✿ **Recycle Beverage Containers**. Participate in your residential recycling program and look for beverage recycling bins.
- ✿ **Use Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL's)** instead of traditional light bulbs. You will save energy and money at the same time. In fact, a CFL uses 75% less energy than a standard bulb. Did you know that of all the energy old-fashioned bulbs use, only 10% goes toward giving off light? The other 90% is wasted as heat.
- ✿ **Get out of the car one day a week**. Car pool, use public transportation, or bicycle.
- ✿ **Start a compost pile** and feed your garden with your grass clippings and vegetable waste.
- ✿ **Plant a tree**. Urban America has an estimated 100 million potential tree spaces. Filling these spaces with trees would result in significant annual energy savings and would reduce electric power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 35 million tons annually.
- ✿ **Use it Again...** **Make an Easy Bouquet**. Save your glass jars to use as vases.
- ✿ **Wrap it Up**. Every parent has tons of kid's original artwork. If you have reached overload, take some "older" pieces and use them to wrap gifts for Grandma, Grandpa, and other family members. Not only are you saving paper, but you're making each gift more special.
- ✿ **Dryer Sheet Do's**. Before you toss your used dryer sheet, use it to remove soap scum from shower doors or to freshen drawers. You can also rub it across clothes to remove static cling.
- ✿ **Save Squeeze Bottles**. Reuse clean squeezable ketchup bottles by filling them with homemade salad dressing, syrup, or cooking oil (anything that comes in a larger container).
- ✿ **Keep old Shower curtains**. Old shower curtains make great drop cloths, and tablecloths when the kids are doing messy craft projects.
- ✿ **Lend a Hand...Donate** your unwanted clothing, furnishing, tools, and other items to charitable organizations.
- ✿ **Donate your PC**. Contact the Center for the Development of Recycling (800) 533-8414, www.recyclestuff.org, to find facilities that can help you to efficiently discard/recycle your unwanted items.